

## **FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in the Tithe Barn  
commencing at 7.45pm.**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Ian Coombes (Chairman), Alison Kent, Chris Summers & Martin Irish

**In Attendance:** Jill Loader (Clerk), Dave Mansell (SW&T Cllr), 2 members of the public

**Public Speaking Time:** The question was raised as to when superfast broadband would be installed at the far end of Fitzhead by Western Gould Farm and the Burrowhill Farm area. Overhead cabling had been installed recently in the main part of the village on behalf of Openreach. It was still not known when this would be completed. Contact details of the USO Helpdesk for BT would be passed on.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Wendy Jonas
- 2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** a) Hedge cutting in the village recently was very poor and would be a safety hazard. Agreed to contact Highways to get them to come out and walk around the village to see the issues along with re-painting the white lines at junctions.
- 5. Sue Bellamy Bench**
  - 5.1 Funds totaling £350 were being held in the deposit a/c of Fitzhead PCC which is to be used to purchase a new bench/seat.
  - 5.2 There are no extra costs to add this bench onto the PC's insurance policy. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept responsibility and maintenance of the bench. Once purchased this would be added to the insurance policy.
  - 5.3 Clerk was waiting to hear from Road Records if there was a charge to obtain a license for this bench, as it was going to be placed on an Adopted Highways area.
- 6. New Walk Footpath -update**

Once the dead tree overhanging the footpath had been cleared and the edges tided. The pathway would be able to be cleared of the mud which had built up heavily over the years. This should all be done within the next few weeks.
- 7. Speeding through the Village – update**

The PCSO had reported that no speeding had been recorded and very little traffic on the day she attended the village (19 June). She would be attending again emergencies allowing.

## **8. Tithe Barn Refurbishment Project – update**

8.1 Current finances as at 31/05/2021 – Savings A/C £23,841.68. Current A/C £22,329.47.  
This gives a total of £46,171.15.

8.2 The committee are still looking into Match Funding availability as well as other options.

8.3 It was agreed that a joint meeting of the TBMC and PC (as trustees) was required to find out how this was progressing and what needed to be prioritized in-order to start works before the planning application expired in March 2022.

8.4 It was agreed to find out when the lease extension was going to be finalized with the Diocese.

8.5 Tithe Barn Committee were planning on responding to the Somerset County Start Up of Village Halls funding following the Covid restrictions easing.

## **9. Parish Borrowing Option**

9.1 After discussion, it was agreed the option of Parish Borrowing would not be the right course of action to take at present for raising funds to refurbish the Tithe Barn.

## **10. Finances**

10.1 It was proposed, second and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks Salary £224.90, Clerk's Back Pay £38.84, HMRC PAYE £66.00, SALC membership £73.88, Richard Branfield – 2021 play area maintenance £738.00.

10.2 Invoices paid – Richard Branfield for pruning the tree in the play area - £312.00. Darren's Dens – 60% payment for new play equipment.

10.3 Receipts received - £0.27p bank interest.

10.4 Bank balance as at 6 August: Current a/c £5,064.88 Deposit a/c £6,530.14 Total £11,595.02  
Less unrepresented cheque £25.00 - £11,570.02.

10.5 The Bank Mandate has been amended.

## **11. Highways Issues**

11.1 After discussion, it was agreed to contact Highways to get them to walk around the village with Alison Kent to show them the poor hedge cutting and in some cases no hedge cutting had been carried out, along with white lining at junctions and ditch clearing that was required. The village was looking particularly untidy.

11.2 Hedge cutting issues – it was agreed to make a comment at SALC to see if other Parishes had received poor hedge cutting services this year.

## **12. Noticeboard Repairs**

12.1 The main noticeboard by the pub was getting worse. Agreed to contact Ian Jonas to find out when this could be looked at.

## **13. Play Area**

13.1 Weekly Inspections – these should be carried out as per the rota. Current person to pass the inspections folder onto the next person at the start of the month.

13.2 The new play equipment was on order. The balance of only 40% would be paid upon completion of the project. An installation date had not yet been confirmed.

## **14. Planning –**

14.1 Knights Farm planning application – no decision had been reached to date.

14.2 No further applications were up for discussion to date.

**15. Somerset West & Taunton Councilor's Report – Cllr Dave Mansell**

The Secretary of State had approved the One Somerset proposal which was a single unitary council, in spite of the public voting for two councils. There would be a transition period and this new authority would take-over in 2023. All other details were vague and nothing was known regarding numbers of councilors, ward boundaries and county divisions.

Current committee meetings were now taking place but a full council meeting had not happened yet.

The current council were looking at the rough sleepers situation now the covid restrictions had been eased to find a permanent solution.

Waste collections were an issue due to driver shortages. This was being addressed but would take time. This impact has caused the green bin collections to be suspended for 6 weeks (Aug-Sept).

The Big Blue Bags scheme would be rolled out in Taunton in November.

Buses consultation deadline was 15 August.

**16. Police Report –** The monthly Police Report was on the website.

**17. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 18th November 2021 at 7.15pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.